

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claim 14 is added. No new matter is added. Support for the amended claim 1 and new claim 14 can be found, for example, in Figs. 3 and 4.

A Claim for Priority was filed on August 23, 2003 with a certified copy of the priority document for this application. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge the claim for priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 2001-180007 to Suzuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,660,332 to Kawase (hereinafter Kawase). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, in part, "preliminarily discharging liquid droplets from heads into a functional liquid receiver formed in a shape corresponding to the shape of a work, the functional liquid receiver surrounding the work." Neither Suzuki nor Kawase discloses at least this feature. For example, Fig. 1 of Suzuki specifically shows that flushing box 22 is located on only one side of the work. Kawase is merely relied upon as allegedly teaching the work moving relative to the heads, and does not teach the above-described feature of the claimed invention. Thus, Suzuki and Kawase fail to disclose each and every element of claim 1.

Additionally, the Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to combine Kawase with Suzuki because Kawase teaches scanning as a technique to apply liquid droplets and inkjet methodology for color filter manufacture. However, the mere fact that Suzuki teaches a technique or methodology is not a proper motivation to combine the applied references, as Suzuki already "applies" liquid droplets.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claim 1 and claims 2, 5, 7 and 8 depending therefrom be withdrawn.

The Office Action also rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki in view of Kawase in further view of JP 2002-067346 to Hiroshi et al. (hereinafter Hiroshi) and rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki in view of Kawase in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,508,528 to Fujii et al. (hereinafter Fujii). Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested at least based on their dependence on an allowable base claim as well as for additional features they recite.

New claim 14 is also patentable at least based on its dependence on an allowable base claim as well as for additional features it recites.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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